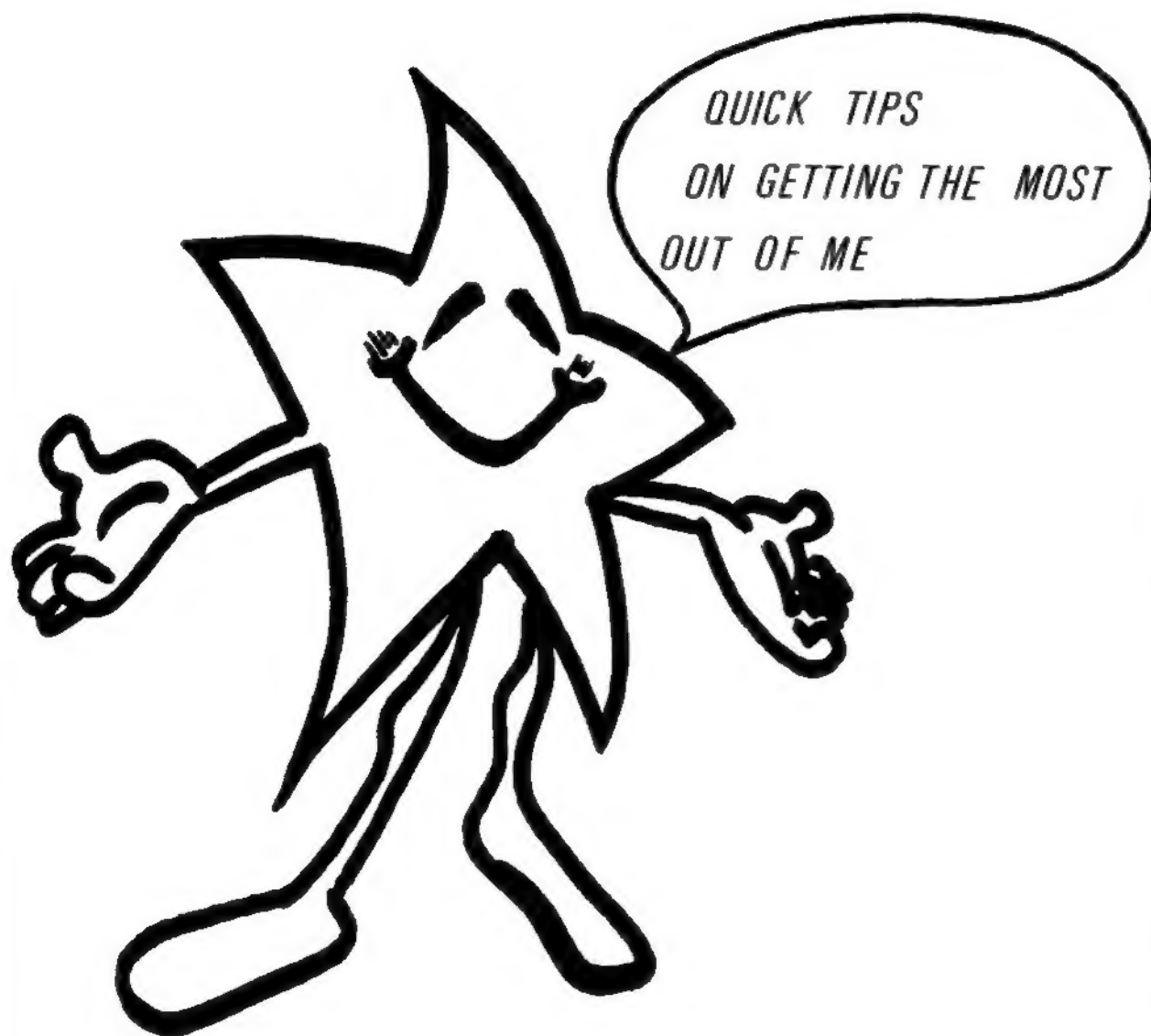


AUS BORNE 1

USER GROUP

Volume 1. Number 4. MAY 1983



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SUBMISSIONS TO AUS BORNE 1

All articles, announcements, letters to open file, classifieds and advertisements should be supplied on WORDSTAR "D" disk files formatted to 44 Characters wide.

Your disk will be returned by mail (or in person at the next AUSBORNE 1 meeting if requested) if return address and postage is included. All care will be taken, but no responsibility for the diskette or material submitted. Diskettes may be returned for rewriting if the material supplied but is unacceptable but requires reworking.

Editing will only be carried out on spelling, grammar and punctuation. Guide lines will be included on the returned diskette. Programmes should be submitted on WORDSTAR "B" files together with (if possible) suggestions on how the programme may be modified to perform other tasks or applications.

DEADLINE

Current material must be received first post, the 20th of each month. Other material may be submitted at any time.

COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING

Can be submitted on WORDSTAR "D" files as above, or as CAMERA READY copy.

SINGLE ISSUE RATES

Page size :	A3	A4	1/2	1/4	1/8
Rate (\$):	50	30	22	15	10

MULTI ISSUE RATE

Discount	%	%
2 Issues	10	6 Issues 20
4 Issues	15	12 Issues 25

SUBSCRIPTION

The AUS BORNE 1 news letter is free to all members.

NON-MEMBERS.

New Zealand	\$ 15:00
Papua/New Guinea	\$ 16:00
Indonesia, Malaysia	\$ 20:00
India/Japan	\$ 22:00
USA/Israel	\$ 25:00
UK/Europe	\$ 30:00

EDITORIAL

It is not my usual practice to comment editorially on anything through the pages of this newsletter but there will be, from time to time the need to do just that, comment on a matter that is of interest or concern.

This call is to YOU, as members of the AUS BORNE 1 User Group. THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER, it is here to help you and your fellow AUS BORNE 1 members grow in the knowledge of their computer. This publication cannot grow without your support. THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER, your letters, stories, contributions and software will not only help others to grow with you, but your user group as well. We are here as a service to you, not to grow some big conglomerate feeding off your hard won time and capital. We are here to provide you with as many services as we are able at your request. It is a team effort. Without your Osborne you would have no need for the user group but you do have your computer, you do have a need and we are here to support you as much as we can but we need your help.

If you have a programme you have written, a story to tell, some ideas you would like to share with others then drop us a disk (Yes you will get it back) with your thoughts on it and we'll print it as soon as we can so others may also learn from others experiences.

So how about it. Sit yourself down at your trusty keyboard and get it down, send it in and see your in print, helping others just like you to grow.

The EDITOR:

P.S. Due to omission of a ^ symbol (control) by the manufacturers of this daisy wheel, any control symbols will appear as ^.

AUS BORNE 1 USER GROUP

COMMITTEE NOTES

The group has been going now for some months, and is going from strength to strength. There have been some minor hiccups along the way, but we are getting the bugs out of the system. By the time the new Committee takes over the reins in July, the old house should be in good order.

THE ELECTIONS

As agreed to at our second meeting, the current, caretaker Committee will step down at the end of June. In June, there will be an election for a Committee, with a maximum number of 10 members. The election will be to the Committee, and at the first available opportunity they will meet to elect/nominate the Office Bearers. If you wish to serve on the Committee, the following steps should be observed:

1. Write a resume about yourself, which may include your experience with Osbornes, what you can offer the Group etc. etc. This will be published in the next newsletter to enable them to form a basis on which to decide. Please no longer than 50 words!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
2. Grab another financial member of the group to second your nomination to the Committee (this assumes you nominated yourself). On another piece of paper give your name, the seconds name and a sentence indicating that you have been nominated for the Committee.
3. Send both bits of paper (no floppies please, as returning them becomes a headache) to:
AUSBORNE USER GROUP
BOX C530
P.O. Clarence St
SYDNEY 2000

Nominations close on the 15th of June

NAMES AND ADDRESSES

We have received a multitude of requests to publish the names and addresses of the members of the group. Originally, the Committee resisted this as an invasion of privacy. However, the requests are so numerous, we have decided to proceed along the following lines.

Names and addresses will be published once a year, and provided only to other group members.

Any person not wishing to have their Name and/or address published should let a Committee member know, and your wishes will be respected.

The main reason for the request is to see if next door neighbours happen to be Osborne owner - contact people that you may have met at a meeting, (and lost that slip of paper with the telephone number on it) etc.

CONSTITUTION

A printed version of the Constitution will be available at the June meeting. The Group has not been registered as a Company, as it was thought best to maintain as much informality as possible. Suggested amendments to the Constitution must be received two weeks prior to the July meeting, when a motion will be put to accept the Constitution. For those country members, a copy of the Constitution will be mailed to them. (That includes our Interstate fellows too).

CLASSIFYING

Advertising rates for the Newsletter are contained elsewhere, however members may advertise items for sale free of charge. Text should be to minimum, and whatever the item it must plug into, attach to, be used by an Osborne (note I left the 1 out after Osborne...read on!!!). So if you have an old printer, monitor or even an Osborne send the details to the group at our P.O. Box address.

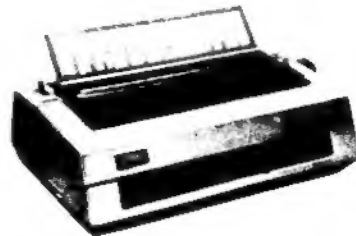
SPELLING ERRORS

In a publication of this size, and it is now getting quite large, there will occur the occasional spelling error. I make no apologies for this, or for any other error that may creep in. Milton Worthington (the current Editor) does a very good job even to just get it out. I sense a note of frustration from Milton in his Editorial with the less than desired assistance with the newsletter. I support his plea that we must help each other, and the best way is via the newsletter.

IAN WAPIER
(Temporary President)

FOREMOST

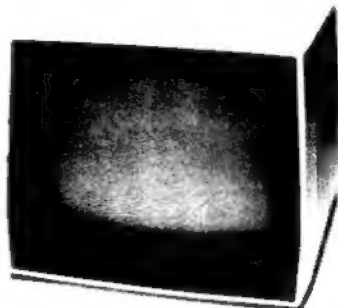
OFFICE EQUIPMENT Pty. Ltd.
EVERYTHING FOR THE MODERN OFFICE



brother
Model HR-1 (RS-232C Interface)

**Daisy
Wheel
Printer**

WITH 2K MEMORY
BI-DIRECTIONAL
10, 12, 15 PITCH
16.5 INCH PAPER



SANYO

The high quality 31cm (12") P31
Phosphor green professional monitor
provides sharp clear display of
80 characters by 24 lines of text.

**635
5477**

PHONE DAVID GAINER NOW!
FOR GENUINE USER GROUP
DISCOUNT PRICES. ☆☆



[W] [E] [R] : [W] page down [E] line up [F] word right [R] page up
[S] [D] [F] : [A] word left [S] chr left [D] chr right [F] word right
[Z] [X] [C] : [Z] page up [X] line down [C] page down [V] insert on/off

² QF Right hand edge of line	³ QA Left hand edge of line
³ QR Goto top of document	³ QC Goto bottom of document.

- [^]G Will delete the character above the cursor, repeating this function will erase chrs to the right.
- ⁻ (or DEL) Erase a character to the left of the cursor repeating this function will erase chrs to the left.
- [^]T Erase a WORD from the right
- [^]Y Erase the whole LINE.

Each of the menus in Wordstar is concerned with a central theme or series of function. Once you can identify these themes and associate them with what you want to do, then all that is left is to read off the options displayed for that menu.

HELP menu. Another silly prefix. If there is anything you wish to be reminded about Wordstar that is not on the other Manus, here is where you will find out about them. Explore! This is also the place to change the various 'levels' of help offered by Wordstar.

TIPS!

1. Work out the appropriate commands and ruler line (tab stops) layouts for your various page sizes and document formats and save them in small files on disk. Then when you wish to type a memo on A5 or use a company letterhead you can use just load in the appropriate dot commands to modify the page layout without having to manually re-enter them.
2. You can use the `OF` command to reset the current margins by placing your cursor somewhere on a line and typing `OF`. The left and right margins will be set to that lines width.
3. To set up a ruler line enter a text line as you see on the top of your screen where:-

```
.. shows Wordstar that it is a comment line and not to be printed
L Left margin      R Right margin      ! Tab stop      # Decimal tab stop
```

Greg STRINGER

MORE WORD STAR TIPS FROM OTHER MEMBERS

7. '0'G'0'G'I

IF YOU HAVE DOUBLE DENSITY AND SPELL GUARD, WITH SPELLGUARD ON YOUR WORDSTAR DISK THEN:

This key will automatically run SPELLGUARD. When spellguard is finished, and WORDSTAR is loaded again, then function key 1 will return you to the same status as before. Please note that should you do this key, it and key number 1 must be similar.

Leo MAPLER.



SOFTWARE REVIEW Screen Dump

SCREEN PRINTING SLOW and FAST. R. Proce and D. Amos.

To send data to the screen then to a printer is not very easy? Without the appropriate software and simple operation most people would pass by attempting to solve this problem. PRT.COM is a short and fast answer for basic and 8080/286 users. The 2 programs listed in this article will give you some exercise in both high and low level languages. You will have to do a little internal memory programming as well, using your Osborne supplied HWY.COM.

The short 30 line basic program will explain simple def user and POKE functions, calling on a 40 line Z80 assembly language program. The Z80 PRT.COM has a loader as the last five lines, DUT must be used to move a block of hex and reset 1 address. Then you must save the newly aligned program onto disk.

If you have a need of this function please type in the PRT.BAS and the PRT.MAC files. A small warning here, PRT.COM is a Z80 file and cannot be assembled by the 8080 ASM.COM, people without Z80 assemblers should use DUT.COM and it's 'a' key, see the further considerations section.

INSTRUCTIONS and COMMENTS:

The print process will be loaded into high memory at C800H which is 52736 DEC. Mbasic has a top address of 8000H; So that from 8000H to the CCF at C700H is the normal basic TPA (transient program area). This print process takes only 1 page of memory from the top address leaving you at least 256K for your software. For CP/M based programs, 0100H to C800H leaves at least 48K for your software. The last address C800H will be used to store the screen width you require, this must be initialised when you run your program, this is the reason for a poke (line 10 of PRT.BAS program), for instance POKE 52736, 64 will tell the processor to send 64 characters or bytes per line/row. Regardless of the screen data width, once initialised it is held as a constant, unless changed with another poke. The DEF USER function (line 30) saves an address for a call to an external location, external to basic that is. The DEF USER in this case is to address C801H/52737 DEC, for later use by (line 260) X=USRO to give an example of the DEF USER functions reusability. PRT.BAS will print a small invoice twice. (line 30) shows the loop used. For J=1 to 2 the screen addressing system used in this program, is explained at the end of this article.

Next the Z80 process PRT.COM which has sufficient notes for a programmer to understand it's working. But maybe you are unaware of the use of a Z80 LDR function, this is a CPU block move used in this case to load a control type program to high memory. When your source code is assembled into a HEX file (if you are using MASM it's a .com file), it will be moved with all of the bytes from 0100H to 803FH, some 36K of data. To make the loader work and eliminate the nulls, use DUT to load the file to memory.

```
Key in: DUT B:PRT.HEX<CR> and using the 'B'
key : D0100<CR>
see : 0100 21 0E 01 11 00 80 01 7F
      0108 ED 80 C3 00 00
```

The rest should be nulls as far as 8000H, which would look like the PRT.COM hex printout starting at 0107D. Using DUT the 'S'

```
key : S0105<CR>
see : S0105 80
```

with the cursor prompting for an input.

```
Key in: C<CR>
```

This will reset the high memory address to C800H, so that it will load the program bytes to C800H not 8000H as programmed in the source code. The reason is assemblers, like dosm8086, live in high memory whilst functioning on user software, so that we cannot address our software to the occupied location, so we must reset it manually, if we want smaller controls and space saving. Lastly in DUT use the 'N'

```
Key : N8000 803F 010F<CR>
```

to move PRT.COM hexadecimal to within the loaders range. Now the hardest part is finished, and you can use the 'G'

```
key : G<CR>
```

On exiting DUT to CP/M don't touch the keyboard until you have saved your handywork. Key in: SAVE 2 B:PRT.COM<CR> The 36K or so of nulls has shrunk to a 2K working file !!!!!!!!!!!!!!! when you run this program.

```
Key in: B:PRT.COM<CR>
```

It will return immediately to cold start. Do not be alarmed, the loader has placed the process into high memory and returned. Now you can load your Mbasic and PRT.BAS to test the printout.

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

We use a MASM80 assembler for our Z80 programs, you may notice the ASSEG and CSSEG mnemonics of the source code. These of course can be left out of your Z80 source code, if you are not using a MASM80 assembler. You could if you didn't buy another assembler (other than the supplied Osborne 1 8080 version), use DUT and load the Z80 with it's jump relatives in hexadecimal, using the 'S' key. See the PRT.COM hex listing, it's only 60 numbers or so, but don't forget that after you leave DUT, returning to CP/M, you must use the same save instructions mentioned earlier. PRT.COM in hexadecimal: load from the 1st address as listed.

```
0100 21 0E 01 11 00 CE 01 7F 0128 00 D9 4F CB 0F E5 D9 1C
0108 00 ED 80 C3 00 00 0E 0130 10 E2 D9 0E 0D CD 0F E5
0118 18 CD 0F E5 2E 20 16 8F 0138 0E 0A CD 0F E5 D9 2D 7D
0128 3A 0D CE 4F 1A 1E 00 41 0140 87 C8 CB 23 38 D6 1E 80
0130 1A B6 7F FE 0D 30 02 3E 0148 18 D5 00 00 00 00 00 00
```

For Z80 programmers; with a little re-working of the Z80 code, and by deleting the loader this program can be merged with your own programs at any address you choose. Instead of providing a width address (supplied mainly for basic to poke the current screen width), a Z80 program can load the width into the 'C' register directly, you must delete from the program:

```
LD A, (width)
LD C,A
```

To save the 'C' register, add the register swap function; EXX either side of:

```
LD C,10H
```

```
CALL 0E50FH
```

Finally to recap an earlier note, PRT.BAS and it's screen addressing system. This idea came from the Osborne instruction manual page 263, where a small XPOS YPOS subroutine is noted. You will find this plus some more, listed at line 290 of the basic program. To send strings or numerics to a specified position on the screen a 32 row 64 column chart is necessary each square has a number in decimal starting at 0 to 32*64=2048. Lines 130 and 140 show 2 specified numbers, then the COSUB to change the cursor position to the screen number position, then the string or numeric data to be sent. If you draw a 32*64 graph chart you can understand the addressing system explained here. Column numerics or matrix displays are possible by adding a 64 displacement to a screen number. It must be noted also, the XPOS YPOS routine can be varied 1 to 127 wide as required.

HOW FOR YOUR CHANCE TO GET YOUR HANDS ON SUCH A HANDY PIECE OF PROGRAMMING

```
!PRT.COM, 74 BYTES WITH LOADER.
!
!A 32 ROW (USER DEFINABLE) PRINT
!SCREEN PROGRAM IN ASSEMBLY
!LANGUAGE. IT WILL SEND SCREEN
!DATA TO A PRINTER FOR A CALLING
!ASSEMBLY LANGUAGE PROGRAM. AS
!THE MBASIC COMPILER IS ALSO IN
!ASSEMBLY LANGUAGE. IT WILL
!FUNCTION FOR BASIC/DEF USER
!FUNCTIONS ALSO.
!
!FOR MASM80 USERS CSSEG OFFSET=103H
PRTAD EQU 8000H-103H
COLD EQU 0000H
WIDTH EQU 0CE00H :$2734DEC
DEL EQU 7FH
SP EQU 20H
CR EQU 0DH
LF EQU 0AH
!
!-----
!
!A Z80 LOADER TO SEND THE PRINT
!PROCESS TO 8000H (SEE *) OR ANY
!ADDRESS IN HIGH MEMORY.
LOADUP: LD HL,010EH
LD DE,8000H
LD BC,007FH
LDIR
JP COLD
!JUMP TO COLD START, AFTER LOADING
!THE PRINTER PROC INTO MEMORY.
!-----
!
!CSSEG
!ORG PRTAD
!
!PROCESS TO CLEAR THE
!PRINTER BUFFER USING A 'X'.
START: LD C,10H
CALL 0E50FH :$151B10B
!
!USER DEFINABLE 1 TO 32 LINE/ROWS.
!TO BE DECREMENTED IN REG 'L'.
!
!LD L,20H :$20H-32D.
!
!INITIALISATION FOR THE 1ST HSB
!ADDRESS OF THE SCREEN OF 0FH-1.
LD B,0FH
!
!LOAD THE SCREEN WIDTH INTO 'C'.
LD A,(WIDTH)
LD C,A
!
!BEGINNING OF THE PRINT PROC.
PRT: INC D
LD E,00H
PRT1: LD B,C :$D341 RES.
PRT11: LD A,(DE) :$D341 RES.
AND DEL :$ASC <=7FH
CP BP :$BP=SPACE.
JR NC,PRT12 :$>20H
LD A,BP
PRT12: EXX LD C,A :$SWAP REGS
LD CALL 0E50FH :$LIST B10B
EXX INC :$SWAP BACK
DJNZ PRT11 :$E'+1.
!
!B WIDTH=0 SEND A CARRIAGE RETURN
!A LINE FEED TO THE PRINTER.
EXX LD C,CR
CALL 0E50FH
LD C,LF
CALL 0E50FH
EXX DEC L :$-1 ROW.
OR A
RET Z
BLA E :$BIT TEST.
JR C,PRT :$JR >=80H.
LD E,00H :$LOAD LSB.
PRT1
!
!END START
```

MBRU.DOC, by Jis Woolley, PCG Disk Librarian, 11/82

MBRU will display a menu of .COM files by number. User will be prompted to enter a number. File corresponding to number entered will be executed.

MBRU will display a menu of .BAS files by number. User will be prompted to enter a number. File corresponding to number entered will be executed using the command MBASIC filename.

MBRU will display a menu of .BAS files by number. User will be prompted to enter a number. File corresponding to number entered will be executed using the command CHWZ filename.

Calling syntax:

MBRU: menu of .COM files on default drive

MBRU d: menu of .COM files on drive d:

MBRU: menu of .BAS (MBASIC) files on default drive

MBASIC.COM assumed to be on default drive, also

MBRU d: menu of .BAS (MBASIC) files on drive d:

MBASIC.COM assumed to be on default drive

MBRU d1: 42: menu of .BAS (MBASIC) files on drive d1;

MBASIC.COM found on drive d2:

CHWZ: menu of .INT (CHASIC) files on default drive

CHWZ.COM assumed to be on default drive, also

CHWZ d: menu of .INT (CHASIC) files on drive d:

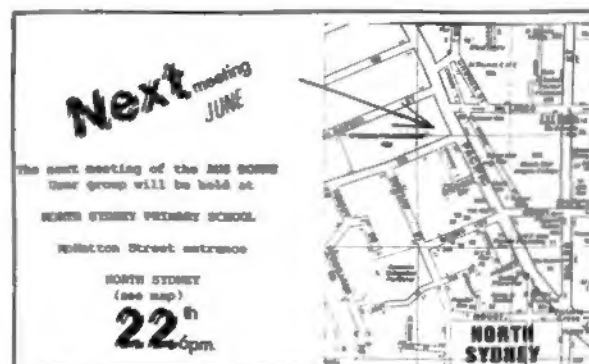
CHWZ.COM assumed to be on default drive

CHWZ d1: 42: menu of .INT (CHASIC) files on drive d1;

CHWZ.COM found on drive d2:

SOFTWARE REVIEW Word Plus.

Is THE WORD PLUS worth it. Yes. Cheaper and more versatile than other spelling checkers. It corrects words in the context of the original file, unlike some others. Very quick, with 20,000 words; less than 104 kb of disk space. In basic checker, without extras, is 74kb. Easily expanded to 30,000 words. Has the ability to easily solve anagrams, homonyms, rhyming words, do word counting and word frequency checking. C.S.





STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP

DUE TO LACK OF SPACE IN THIS
ISSUE, QUESTION TIME WITH ADAM
HAS BEEN HELD OVER TO A LATER
TIME. IT'S WORTH THE WAIT

DUE TO A NUMBER OF PROBLEMS
MAINLY THE LATENESS OF MOST OF
THE MATERIAL PRINTED HERE, IT
WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO GET THIS
ISSUE OUT PRIOR TO THE MAY
MEETING. WE HOPE YOU WILL
FORGIVE THOSE WHO WERE LATE
AND PRAY THAT THEY (AND YOU)
WILL GET YOUR MATERIAL IN AS
SOON AS POSSIBLE TO ALLOW US
TO GET THIS PUBLICATION OUT ON
TIME.

WE ARE TRUSTING YOU WILL BE
ABLE TO READ THIS ISSUE WHEN
IT COMES OFF THE PRESS. DUE TO
THE QUANTITY OF MATERIAL (MOST
OF WHICH CAME LATE) AND THE RE-
STRICTION ON THE NUMBER OF
PAGES WE ARE ABLE TO HAVE
PRINTED TO KEEP COSTS WITHIN
BUDGET WE HAVE HAD TO HAVE
THIS ISSUE REDUCED 50%. IF YOU
FIND THIS OK, PLEASE DROP US A
LINE AND LET US KNOW. IF YOU
DON'T LIKE IT, TELL US ANYWAY.

TO: AUSBORNE USER GROUP
Box C530
P.O. Clarence Street
SYDNEY 2000

... PLEASE PRINT ...

Allow time for postage, duplication of disks, and return postage. This may take 2 to 3 weeks.

First Name _____ Surname _____

Address _____

Post code

Phone (work) () (Home) ()

PLEASE TICK

Please find enclosed \$20.00 being for one years membership to the AUSBORNE USER GROUP
AND / OR
Please forward the following disks, and enclosed is \$6.00 for each disk ordered:
(Do not send any blank disks..... the price includes the disk and software.)

[illegible]

CHEQUES ONLY PLEASE MADE PAYABLE TO "AUSBORNE USER GROUP"

SALE OF FURNITURE

The Library entails the purchase of quite a few floppy disks, and to gain the most benefit to members they are purchased in bulk quantities. This explains how we were able to sell the software and disk for \$6.00. Although it is not the intention to compete with Suppliers, again quite a few members have indicated that they would like to purchase the disks from the group.

Disks, in quantities of 10 will be only sold at the monthly meeting for \$40.00 a box. This is quite a saving on what most people are paying for their floppies. As volunteer labour, we are unable to mail the boxes out, thus the policy to make them available at the meetings. Country and Interstate members are an exception, where we will mail them out.

The disks are double density Verbatim's complete with a manufacturer's warranty of 5 years.

PORTABLE COMPANION

We are negotiating with our Western Australian counterparts to import the Portable Companion from the States in a bulk order, and shipped by sea. The sea shipping will mean that they will be some 6 to 8 weeks old by the time your 8 inch monitor eyes get a chance to see them. However the price looks like being in the \$3.00 per issue region.

PLEASE DO NOT ORDER THEM FROM US YET. YOU WILL BE NOTIFIED OF THEIR AVAILABILITY

MORE ON THE NEW OSBORNE

Just a few quick lines in the new Osborne. It seems it is to be called the OSBORNE EXECUTIVE and will come in two models. The better unit is to have 128K of RAM, large screen (17" Diag), Full keyboard function coding, a better graphics with reverse video built in direct call/answer modem and two "size line disks, one atop the other on the left side of the unit. The up-market model is to have 246K RAM and be up-gradable to 16 bit in the near future. We will try to get more info and pictures as soon as we can. You might like to know though, in the first week of release in the USA, in only six states some 25,000 units were sold in the first week. I get the feeling that it might just be popular. ED:

NEXT MEETINGS

The monthly meetings will always be held on the third Wednesday of each month, except for June when it will be on the fourth Wednesday. The dates of the next few meetings are:

JUNE 22nd
JULY 20th
AUGUST 17th
SEPTEMBER 21st
OCTOBER 19th
NOVEMBER 16th

The venue is the North Sydney Demonstration School (may ~~be~~ marked as Primary or Public school on some editions of road maps) which is on the corner of Mcbatton Street, and the Pacific Highway. Entry to the School is via Mcbatton Street. Heaps of parking is available.

OPEN FILE

A reply for Dr Mann's communication problem between the Osborne and a Sandra Nalla 12 printer.

"I have had some experience using Sanders Media 12 on PDP-11 equipment. We have been using it for card transmitting with various fonts and other types of text manipulation.

Please ring me at home or if I may help.

Yours Faithfully,
Eddie Chivers



From some new owners we have in part:

"... We can get it to LIST to the (EPSON) printer, but we cannot get a sample of the LIST output from screen to printer.

By joining your group could we get answers and help to these sort of questions?

Another problem is that we can get into the graphic mode, but we can't get it out of graphics mode, or set the output to the printer.

Elizabeth Vorrath

Geelong 3220th

ANSWERS PLEASE.....

ADDRESS & PHONE NUMBER WITH HELD.

WHO'S DISCS CAN YOUR OSBOURNE READ?*

With double density disks from the following machines can be read:

CRONENCO C10 SP	IBM PERSONAL COMPUTER
MORROW DECISION	IBM WORK-ALIKES:
NORTHEAST BASIC	
ICL-PC	
AUSSIE BITTE S.B.C.	NATIONAL PANASONIC
TEROX 820	COLUMBIA
DEC VT-180.	HITACHI (16 BIT)
Other work-alikes	SIRIUS/VICTOR

Others are promised with DD upgrade: Tandy, etc.

Users are promised with the upgrade: Issey, etc.

[* EDITORS NOTE: Just to keep the record straight. Though your Osborne can read disks from these computers, they may only be able to read the directory files or data files or: I think you get the message. Don't expect to pick up an IBM disk and load it into your Osborne.]

AUS BORNE 1 Library Report.

INTERSTATE & OVERSEAS CONTACTS.

One Australian Osborne Users Group has decided to use AUS BORNE 1 as their national and overseas contact point. In return, they will be contributing public domain software and hardcopy for our members. Anyone who would like to establish a local group, do let us know and use the AUS BORNE 1 group as your contact point too. You may already be in contact with an overseas or interstate organization. We would appreciate you letting us know. Perhaps you could be the AUS BORNE 1 USERS GROUP contact with them or pass your contact on to AUS BORNE 1. Other groups may be, for example, the Osborne Business, Supercalc, dBase II Users Group, or the Computer Simulations Society.

ADULT GAMES.

There are 14 disks of public domain games in our library. Other games are advertised in overseas magazines and from some local dealers. In my experience, the public domain games are good. Some dealers are selling these at the near cost price of \$20. One of the advantages AUS BORNE 1 members have is receiving these game disks for only \$6.00 per disk.

WAR GAMES AND OTHER SIMULATIONS.

1. CHANGE, newsletter of the Canberra Mergames Society; P.O. Box 116, Canberra, 2601.
2. BREAKOUT, a commercial Australian publication; Conflict Simulations Australia, PO Box 162, Mooroolbark, Vic., 3138.
3. THE WAR MACHINE, a British magazine of computer simulation gaming (from Adult Games stores).

The three magazines above all cover computer simulations that are fun and instructive. The British group also provide strong support for those who are writing simulation programs. Many simulations are for toy computers, with their pretty colours, sounds and graphics. However, most ADVENTURE type games use words, so OSBORNE owners have a new world awaiting them. Many programs are written in Basic, and are merely waiting for you or someone you know to key them onto a disk. If you are able to do this, please contact the AUS BORNE 1 USER GROUP Librarian.

CD RATED GAMES.

Also in the public domain are CD rated games, from a U.S. publication. A psychologist in the User Group would like to contact anyone who has copies of this magazine, so that he can create Self-Directed Learning program for his clients.

INTERESTING MAGAZINES.

Magazines are better for learning and entertainment than most books. The style in which magazines are written is relaxing, attractive and digestible. The information is up-to-date, and not three years behind. Even the advertisements are interesting. Here is some opinionated advice, which will guide those who are new to the microcomputer field. You probably bought your computer for one or more of these reasons:

1. It is a powerful tool which helps bring in your income. The computer programs are invaluable. (Business Software).
2. You need to understand computers, how they work and what they can do. (Hardware and Software).
3. It is a fun machine. (Pleasure and leisure).

The business people amongst us are usually subscribing to our appropriate trade magazines. In addition, there are Computer Magazines for non-computer business people. In my opinion the best of these is "INTERFACE AGE: COMPUTING FOR BUSINESS". It sells at large newsagents (especially those near computer stores) for \$5.20. The latest issue to arrive from the U.S. compares 50+ database programs, photo-typesetting direct from the micro-computer, reviews of Wordstar, several machines (including the IBM), and introducing microcomputers into the tax return business and law offices.

My next favourite is "MICRO COMPUTER PRINTOUT: a plain man's guide to personal computing". (A)\$2.75. If you do some of the purchasing for your company, "AUSTRALIAN PERSONAL COMPUTER: Australia's top selling computer magazine" is acceptable (A)\$2.50. If you are the Purchasing Officer, then "AUSTRALIAN MICRO" may be better (A)\$2. The micro-computer addict subscribes to hard-core magazines like "BYTE: the Small Systems Journal" (A)\$4.85, or to "MICROSYSTEMS: the CP/M User's Journal" (A)\$6.98. These two magazines cover hardware and software, reviews, construction of kits, and low level/rare computer languages. "MICROSYSTEMS" tends to cover "standard CP/M" rather than 5 1/4 inch CP/M.

The two Australian magazines "ELECTRONICS AUSTRALIA" (A)\$2 and "ELECTRONICS TODAY INTERNATIONAL" (A)\$2.35 have hardware modifications and ads for items such as voice synthesizers, and fancy disk drive units.

If your interests are strongly with pure CP/M software, then Lifeboat Associates, the world's biggest seller of microcomputer software, produce "LIFELINES". This magazine reviews, gives modifications and hints on all types of software, whether or not it happens to be sold by their company.

Occasionally I buy other publications from the newsagents: "PRACTICAL COMPUTING", "COMPUTING TODAY", "COMPUTERS & PROGRAMMING", "COMPUTERS & ELECTRONICS". The last two are good for learning about and modifying the hardware of the computer.

If I told you that I have read (but not completely understood) every issue of BYTE and CREATIVE COMPUTING for the last two years, you might think that I spend a lot of money on magazines. Not true.

You can read the major publications at a large technical college, C.A.E. or University library. In addition, you will find many publications that I have not mentioned e.g. "DATAMATION", "COMPUTERS & SOCIETY". Finally, you may be wondering about "THE PORTABLE COMPANION", official publication of the people who made our computers. If you are a beginner, or want to do fancy things with the OSBORNE 1, then this is a valuable magazine. I have no trouble with the standard manuals. The Osborne 1 manuals, and those which accompany my program serve me very well. In addition, the members of the AUS BORNE 1 User Group and this newsletter are better sources of information than anything in print. The greatest resource we have is our User Group members, particularly those people we meet at club meetings.

REFERENCES:

All publications are monthly and rates are annual, surface mail, unless specifically mentioned otherwise.

CREATIVE COMPUTING, PO Box 5214, Boulder Colorado, 80321, USA. (US)\$34.97pa. Air (US)\$75.
INTERFACE AGE, PO Box 1234, Cerritos, CA, 90701, USA. (US)\$35.00pa. Air (US)\$60.
BYTE, PO Box 328, Hancock, NY, 03449, USA. (US)\$35.00pa. Air on request.
MICROSYSTEMS, PO Box 8580, Philadelphia, PA, 19101, USA. (US)\$32.00pa. Air on request.
LIFELINES, 1651 Third Av., NY, NY, 10028, USA. No further information known.

MICROCOMPUTER PRINTOUT, Stuart House, Perrymount Rd., Haywards Heath, West Sussex, England. 16.3 pounds surface, 30 pounds airmail. G.S.

LIBRARY DISKS ARE COMPATIBLE.

Disks we will be sending are VERBATIM, single sided, double density. Unlike certain other brands, no member of the core group has yet had any difficulty with this brand.

Only single density will be sent - this enables a wider range of users to the library, and prevents any possibility of incompatibility between any President Double Density or Osborne Double Density machines.

The disk drives producing the library disks is carefully aligned to factory standards, so if you can't read our disks, either they have been damaged in transit, or your machine may need alignment.

DISK OF THE MONTH.

For the next few months, we will be offering disk OF THE MONTH. This will contain selections of the most interesting of all our programs. This offer will only be available from the time of announcement of the disk, until the announcement of the next disk of the month.

(Of course, you may order any other disk in the library catalogue, as you wish.)

The overall aim of the Osborne User Group is to add to your own work and fun. And, likewise, your contributions will assist the rest of us...

DISK OF THE MONTH, MAY, 1983.

Games : PACMAN, OTHELLO, SHIP (a picture).
Utilities : D (a very good extended directory), SWEET14 (replaces pip, ren, era, dir, mir for most situations),
OTERNA : (a codes and terminal emulator program),
UNERA : (nondestructively rescues damaged disks),
PRINTER : (codes to interface with Wordstar).

[* Only replaces the file handling areas of PIP: Editor.]
G.S.

* DISK OF THE MONTH.

The AUSBORNE USERS GROUP has regular contact with overseas User Groups. This includes the exchange of public domain software. When you contribute to your own library, you give the AUSBORNE USER GROUP LIBRARY greater appeal with other libraries.

We are looking for contributions to the library. Any public domain software will do. You may have written it yourself, or you may have copied it from a magazine or elsewhere. If you copied it from, say, Australian Personal Computer, mention it in the program.

In return for your contribution, we give you a reasonable discount on any purchases.

This is the end of my first month in this role - record librarian. Orders for 80+ library disks have arrived and are being dispatched. It is a new experience for all of us: Packaging, posting, insurance and trying to give you such a service that you will enthusiastically give a contribution in return - the whole enterprise is one of self-help. (See section HOW TO CONTRIBUTE.)

YOU WANT TO FIND OUT????

You want to find out what is in the library? There are games (POG/GAM), utilities (POG/UTL), applications (POG/APP), languages (POG/LNG), miscellaneous libraries and hackers files. On each disk is a file called DISK.DOC which describes the details of the programs on the disk.

Many disks also contain "_.DOC" (documentation) files, which give instructions on how to use the programs.

It would be too wordy to describe all the 1100 files. However, when you attend the North Sydney monthly meeting, you can examine the printout of the documentation to the programs. As a bonus, you may also find someone there who has purchased or used the program in which you are interested.

WILL WordStar WORK WITH YOUR PRINTER?

On a giant sized SUPERCALC file are the ingredients to get WordStar working.

So far we can get it going with the following printers:

EPSON MX 80 (\$	*) / MX 100 (\$	*)
STAR DP-8480 (\$	*) / STAR DP-315 (\$1350-*)	
C-ITON 8510 (\$	*) / C-ITON 1550 (\$1821*)	
C-ITON 8510 (\$	*) / C-ITON 1550 (\$1705+*)	

[* Recommended retail price] [*) Serial interface] [+ Para interface]

If you have a version working on your machine and we do not list it, please let us all know. You will be saving another member hours of frustration. For those who find it difficult to work out the meaning of the codes,

RULE ONE: IF ALL ELSE FAILS, READ THE INSTRUCTION MANUAL.

RULE TWO: IF ALL ELSE FAILS, READ THE INSTRUCTION MANUAL.

RULE THREE: CONTACT THE AUS BORNE 1 USER GROUP FOR INFORMATION.

In my version of the Osborne 1 WordStar Guide, the relevant section is Appendix 1, "Modifying WordStar on the Osborne 1", by Thom Hogan. This program is available on DISK OF THE MONTH, to AUS BORNE 1 members only.
G.S.

67 PER CENT DUTY ON SOFTWARE.

If you buy software from overseas, you will probably be paying an additional 67% import duty of 33% on tariff item 02.12.190, and then sales tax on this, of 20%.

The example I suffered: THE WORD PLUS, (US)\$120, sent early January, 1983. Received end of March. Three disks worth \$6, shipping \$3 and software and manuals \$114. Total additional charge was 67% of \$120. I paid an additional (123\$81.62 to the Federal Government for a product that has no Australian made equivalent.

Lesson: Don't purchase directly from an overseas retailer. Get your friendly retailer or wholesaler to order it for you, and you will pay the 67% on the wholesale price, not the retail price.



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WE DON'T REALLY CARE WHETHER YOU KNOW ANYTHING
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WHETHER YOU JUST LIKE PLAYING GAMES

MITE

the mighty communications package will turn your Osborne into a powerful intelligent terminal for use with online services or even transfer to and from other computers

P.LINK & RCPM.LINK

communicates with Bulletin boards and upload and download files.

DSBOARD

creates games layouts, bar graphics, data entry forms, logos or electronic pictures

WIZDEX

generates a sorted alphabetical index.

SMARTKEY & SMARTPRINT

provide keyboard facilities to define and redefine keys - and use definition tables to translate characters enroute to the printer

FAST

is a speed-up program for systems using slow disk drives

UNPROTECT

will decrypt Microsoft Basic, preventing editing or listing then rewriting in a normal format allowing correction or user adaptation.

EXTEND

makes the directory a shared resource to different user areas

THE EXTENDED UTILITY PACKAGE

consisting of:

SPOOL allows output from any program to the printer, punch or console, to be redirected to a disk file. UNSPOOL uses the 'dead time' while the system is waiting for console input and printing may thus be done in parallel with other operations. QSUB is a 'quick subalt' utility which allows the user to type a string of commands and/or program input and then set on with something else. RESTORE will recover files which have been inadvertently erased.

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OSBORNE PRODUCTS PRICE LIST.

Prices are recommended retail, excluding sales tax, and are subject to change.

WORD-PAC: (Spellguard, Mathstar, Grammatic, Documate/Plus, Footnote): \$440 [EDITORS NOTE: Don't rush out just yet for this one. TRUST ME]

SCREEN-PAC: (52/80/104 column screen): \$350

POWR-PAC: (can use batteries, or car): \$590 and \$300

COMM-PAC: (Direct connect, integrated modem): \$460. With software & documentation

START-PAC: (Computer Assisted Instruction, WordStar, Supercalc, CP/M & the O-1): \$88

SYSTEM CHECKER: (checks disc drive, memory, monitor): \$84

PERSONAL PEARL: (high level language, easier to use than Basic and dBase): \$386

dBASE TUTOR, ZIP: (Computer Assisted Instruction-C.A.I., and programming aid): \$180

ZORK 1: (adventure game, using whole sentences to get twenty treasures): \$72

DEADLINE: (interactive mystery novel-"who dun it"): \$90